

Environmental Quality Commission

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION
14 REILLY ROAD
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601-1132

PAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR

May 21, 2001

The Honorable Paul E. Patton
State Capitol
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Patton,

The Environmental Quality Commission would like to call your attention to an urgent matter truly deserving of your attention and support.

The Daniel Boone National Forest's request for FY 2002 to support its land acquisition program was not included in President Bush's budget. The Daniel Boone National Forest is the largest tract of publicly owned land in Kentucky, covering 695,643 acres. Continued acquisition of private inholdings will provide a number of benefits including:

- increased tourism and recreational opportunities,
- protection of rare species, and
- protection of Kentucky's outstanding resource streams and unique cultural resources.

Two of the forest's most unique and outstanding areas—the Red River Gorge and the Rockcastle River—have received high priority for land acquisition. Land acquisition needs for these two areas total \$4.7 million in FY2002.

We hope you will join with EQC in expressing your support to President Bush for this appropriation out of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to support the Daniel Boone National Forest's request. I have attached a copy of the Daniel Boone National Forest Purchase Program for FY 2002 for your information.

Please feel free to contact EQC if you have any questions concerning this matter. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aloma W. Dew".

Aloma Dew, Chair

Cc: Crit Luallen, Secretary, Governor's Executive Cabinet
Secretary James E. Bickford, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet
Secretary Ann R. Lata, Tourism Development Cabinet